



TESTIMONY OF HON. DARRYL BRACKEEN, JR.

CHAIR | GENERATION CHANGE CT
ALDER | WARD 26 | CITY OF NEW HAVEN

SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PUBLIC HEARING | MARCH 10th, 2021

Good afternoon, Senator Mae Flexer (Co-Chair), Representative Dan Fox (Co-Chair), Senator Rob Sampson (Ranking Member), Representative Gale Mastrofrancesco (Ranking Member) and esteemed members of the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee. My name is Darryl Brackeen, Jr and I am a lifelong resident of New Haven and serve as alderman for the city's 26th Ward.

I am also the board chair of Generation Change CT, a statewide political action committee whose mission is to build a stronger, fairer and more inclusive democracy and economy for all of Connecticut's residents. In this work, we are committed to making Connecticut a national leader in expanding voting rights and participation.

To this end, I urge this committee to pass S.B. No. 753, An Act Concerning The Counting of Incarcerated Persons For Purposes of Determining Legislative Districts. The state of Connecticut unfairly relies on "prison gerrymandering," which denies voters and residents, in particular in our black and brown communities, from being properly represented by local, state and federal officials.

Currently, the state counts incarcerated residents in the districts of the places where they are incarcerated, instead of their actual home districts. As a result, both these individuals and these regions of the state are not properly represented, and there is an increase of more representatives from North Central Connecticut versus in the towns, cities and districts that represent the majority of the state's populations. This is unjust and can no longer go unaddressed.

Therefore, I encourage passage of SB 753. Thank you for your consideration.